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RUEHDS/AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA 0859
RUEHAE/AMEMBASSY ASMARA 0704
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SUBJECT: UNSC/SOMALIA: SHARIA COURT MILITIAS THREATENING
MOGADISHU STABILITY

REF: SECSTATE 77628

11. (SBU) SUMMARY. United Nations Department of Political Affairs (DPA) Assistant-Secretary-General (A/SYG) Kalomoh urged Security Council Members at May 15 consultations to intensify their contacts, especially within the Contact Group and the Transitional Federal Institutions (TFIs), on the different Mogadishu factions in response to the recent violence there. Kalomoh blamed the emergence of Sharia Court militias on foreign assistance and stressed the need to prevent the ascendancy of such groups with 'Islamist ideology.' The Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) had a role to play, Kalomoh asserted, as would the Baidoa leadership were it to finally unite. In their interventions Members drew a link between the recent violence and violations of the arms embargo, calling for it to be respected and implemented. China, which normally holds the pen on UN documents regarding Somalia, ceded drafting responsibilities for the resultant Press Statement (text in Paragraph 6) to Qatar as Chair of the Somalia Sanctions Committee. END SUMMARY.

12. (SBU) At May 15 UNSC consultations, DPA A/SYG Kalomoh warned the Council that recent intense fighting in Mogadishu between elements of the Alliance for the Restoration of Peace and Counter Terrorism and those representing the Sharia Courts could worsen and threaten the TFIs, which were the only source of law and order in the capital. Kalomoh recounted the conclusions of the Somalia Contact Group in its May 9 meeting with Special Representative of the SYG (SRSG) Fall, including the need to bridge the gap between Mogadishu and Baidoa groups (on which both the international community and Somali clan Elders could be instrumental), the need to strengthen the National Security and Stabilization Plan and the need to strike a balance between the fight against terrorism and the pacification of Mogadishu. More than anything, Kalomoh declared, 'quiet diplomacy' and engagement with all factions were the priorities.

13. (SBU) In addition to these steps, Kalomoh said, a ceasefire must be formalized and upheld. Kalomoh worried about the effect that the emergence of Sharia Court militias could have on Somali stability, as it would cause the conflict to degenerate into an ideological and cultural one. Kalomoh blamed the prominence of these militias on their

foreign support. He asserted that IGAD and an eventual consolidated Baidoa leadership would be important in combating the ascendancy of these Islamist elements.

¶4. (SBU) In their interventions, Members drew a link between the recent violence and violations of the arms embargo, calling for it to be respected and implemented. China, Japan, Greece, Russia, Congo and Ghana all called loudly for a strengthening and an enforcing of the arms embargo, with Ghanaian Permanent Representative Effah-Apenteng adding that those parties providing 'clandestine support' to violators should desist from such activities. Russia seconded a call from the UK on imposing targeted sanctions on individuals in order to control the situation. Qatar, as Chair of the Somalia Sanctions Committee, promised to accelerate the Committee's work in response to the current violence. No direct mention was made of a possible waiver of the arms embargo to accommodate an IGAD or African Union (AU) peace support operation. Members mentioned that these types of regional organizations (the AU, IGAD, the Arab League and the Organization of the Islamic Conference) had a role to play in reconciliation and looked forward to the upcoming IGAD Summit in Nairobi addressing the issue.

¶5. (SBU) China and Denmark made explicit calls for dialogue between the parties, and Tanzania noted that the 'new fight' in Mogadishu involved terrorist elements. Ambassador Bolton drew the Council's attention to the effects of the recent fighting on the distribution of humanitarian assistance in and around Mogadishu. Qatar drafted a Press Statement to be read out by the SC President; the text includes our amendments and was issued May 16.

¶6. (U) Begin Press Statement text:

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Members of the Security Council welcome the briefing of Assistant-Secretary-General Kalomoh of 15 May 2006 related to the recent developments in Somalia, and express their deep concern at the recent reports of violence in Mogadishu leading to a large number of casualties, particularly among civilians, and the displacement of thousands of people;

Members of the Security Council call for an unconditional and immediate ceasefire by the warring parties and urge all parties to allow for the resumption of humanitarian activities, the rescue of survivors and the recovery of the deceased;

Members of the Security Council reiterate their full support to the Transitional Federal Institutions in their endeavours to implement the Transitional Federal Charter;

Members of the Security Council firmly underscore their united support for the IGAD sponsored reconciliation process on Somalia and call on all Somali leaders of factions to fully cooperate with the SRSG on Somalia, the Contact Group and IGAD leaders in their endeavours to secure a ceasefire and a negotiated settlement by all parties concerned;

Members of the Security Council urge all parties to return to the path of dialogue and reconciliation and work within the framework of the Transitional Federal Institutions;

Members of the Security Council remind the Member States of their obligation to implement and enforce the arms embargo imposed by the Security Council in its resolution 733 (1992);

Members of the Security Council express their intention urgently to consider how to strengthen the effectiveness of the arms embargo.

¶7. (U) End Press Statement text.
BOLTON